

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/055,003

Applicant(s)

TAKANO, GAKU

Examiner

Art Unit

Negussie Worku

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 01/13/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 25-39.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date ____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date ____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____

Negussie Worku
3/9/06

DOUGLAS Q. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Tranlong

DETAILED ACTION

Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: In response to the Office action dated October 18, 2005, and further to the amendments filed January 13, 2006, applicant's request in view of the amendments/remarks have been reviewed and respectfully considered.

According to applicant's response indicated in page 2 through 10, the original claims 1-24, which was rejected in the last non-final Office Action has been cancelled, and the new claims 25-39 has been submitted.

The newly amended and re-written claims 25-39 are believed to be distinct from the prior art (Atkins et al. USPAP 2002/0172431), used to reject the application. Applicant's arguments/remarks as discussed in page 9 through 11, has been found persuasive in that the prior art used in the last office action cannot be applied to the new claims 25-39 for the reasons further discussed below.

Atkins discloses a technique for performing filter processing to improve the appearance of an image while increasing the compressibility of the image, an edge dependent filter selection module 340 in Figure 4. The edge dependent filter selection module 340 in Figure 4 includes an edge angle measure generator 410, a sharpness measure generator 420, a curvature metric generator 430 and a filter selector 440 (paragraph (0050)). The filter selector 440 is coupled to the

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edge angle measure generator 410, the sharpness measure generator 420, and the curvature metric generator 430 to receive inputs therefrom (paragraph (00511)).

Therefore, with regard to claim 25-29, Atkins and the searched prior art neither anticipates nor suggests a selector connected to the filter computing section and serving as a filter factor selecting module, a filter factor 1 setting section connected to the selector and serving as a filter factor setting module, and a filter factor 2 setting section connected to the selector and serving as a filter factor setting module, the filter factor selecting module selecting either the filter factor 1 setting section or the filter factor 2 setting section in accordance with the sampling rate selection signal; the filter computing section multiplies each piece of the image data by a filter factor output from the selector as the filter factor selecting module, using a corresponding one of multipliers, and sums up resultant data pieces using a total adding machine; a total value output from the total adding machine is expressed as a numerical value of $(+m, n)$, m being an integer of m bits, n being a decimal fraction of n bits, $(+m, n)$ being accordingly $(m + n + 1)$ bits; and the total value is converted into an integer by an integrator and output as a filter processing result of an integer of m bits.

With respect to claims 30 and 35 respectively recite a " filter processing means includes a selector connected to the filter computing section and serving as filter factor selecting means, a filter factor 1 setting section connected to the selector and serving as filter factor setting means, and a filter factor 2 setting

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section connected to the selector and serving as filter factor setting means, the filter factor selecting means selecting either the filter factor 1 setting section or the filter factor 2 setting section in accordance with the sampling rate selection signal" and "a selector connected to the filter computing section and serving as filter factor selecting means, a filter factor 1 setting section connected to the selector and serving as filter factor setting means, and a filter factor 2 setting section connected to the selector and serving as filter factor setting means, the filter factor selecting means selecting either the filter factor 1 setting section or the filter factor 2 setting section in accordance with the sampling rate selection signal", and thus are patentable for reasons analogous to claim 25.

Therefore, claims 25 through 39 are patentable for the reasons the prior art fails to disclose the claimed invention as amended.

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Negussie Worku whose telephone number is 571-272-7472. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Davis Moore can be reached on 571-272-7436. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public

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PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Negussie Worku

03/10/06

DOUGLAS Q. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER